

COMMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 of the present application under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) by the citation of Chen (Us4,812,956) in view of Shen (US5,964,518) and Kopenhaver (US3,775,828).

Claim 1 has been amended to more completely describe the invention and those amendments are fully supported by the figures and the Detailed Description.

The Chen patent ('956) discloses in Fig 1 a lamp string having three wires 31, 32, 33 "axially molded in the mounting band 1" and "one or more semicircular grooves 11 for installing the lamp strings therein." There is no support for the Examiner's allegation that the '956 patent includes a female connector having "two plated holes". The '956 patent makes only a vague reference to "...a connector 51 (or 52). The connector 51 (male plug) has a threaded end 53 which is threadingly engaged with the sleeving end 55 of a flash controlling unit. Another connector 52 (female socket) is coupled to a conducting contact 56 so as to form a complete closed circuit." However, the present application discloses a first adapter 1 securely mounted on one end of a decorative light having multiple light sources 100 connected in series and encased in a resilient and transparent enclosure with **two first plated holes 101** defined in the end and connected to the light sources 100. The first adapter 1 has a combination male-female connector 11 with two first pins extending from one end corresponding to the two first plated holes 101 in the enclosure 10 and **two plated second holes 112** in the other end and a resilient cover 12. Furthermore, the second adapter has a male connector provided with two pins 211 electrically connected with the light sources 100, two extended prongs 212 electrically connected with the two second pins and a **second cover integrally formed on the joint between the male connector 21 and the enclosure 10 by injection molding** after the male connector connects with the enclosure 10. And as conceded by the Examiner, Chen does not disclose the pins on the connectors. Thus, the '956 patent is significantly different from the present application.

The Shen patent is specifically designed for flexible lamp strips of triangular cross section unlike the present application which does not have such restriction. Furthermore, "the second terminal element 23 has male terminals 231 at two opposite ends respectively fastened to the female terminals 222 of the first terminal element and one terminal element 13 of a second lamp strip." However, in the present application the first adapter and the second adapter do not mate with each other. Figure 3 of the Shen patent clearly shows three pins 221, 231, whereas the present application is provided with two pins.

Although the Kopenhaver patent does show the flange in the middle of the boot 18 claim 3 now depends on the amended claim 1 and thus should be allowable.

The cited arts have all been carefully reviewed and are deemed to not disclose either individually or in combination thereof a connector for a decorative light as disclosed in the claims, and particularly claim 1, of the present application.

Accordingly, from the argument provided to overcome the Examiner's assertions, and the

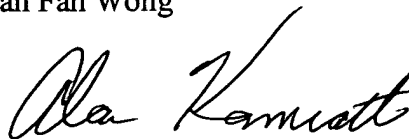
amendments to Claim 1, applicant believes that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 103(a) are overcome and the amended Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon of the referenced application are thus now allowable. Therefore, favorable action is thus earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Tsui-Tuan Fan Wong

Dated: September 14, 2001

By:



Alan D. Kamrath (Reg. No. 28,227)
RIDER BENNETT EGAN & ARUNDEL
333 South Seventh Street, Suite 2000
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 340-8925
Fax: (612) 340-7900

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9-14-01

